

*March 25, 2009*

Madame Speaker, I rise to honor four police officers who gave their lives in the line of duty in a tragic shooting in Oakland this past weekend. I join all of northern California in mourning their loss and honoring their sacrifice.

Two of these brave officers lived in my district. Sergeant Ervin Romans of Danville, California, was a member of the SWAT team, and had served with the Oakland Police Department for thirteen years. He was a recipient of the department's Medal of Valor for bravery. Erv, as he was known, leaves behind his wife and his three children.

Sergeant Mark Dunakin of Tracy served with the Oakland Police Department for eighteen years. He was known and respected as a passionate guardian of public safety. Sgt. Dunakin grew up in Pleasanton and is survived by his wife and three children.

These heroic officers dedicated their lives so that we might live in safety. My thoughts and prayers are with their families and loved ones during this difficult time.